

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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EGY - L. W. SEMAKIS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR'S DENIAL OF ANTI-JUDAIST
REMARKS

1. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HAS ADVISED DEPARTMENT THAT
AMBASSADOR GHORBAL APRIL 8 GAVE TO JOSEPH POLAKOFF,
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF JEWISH TELEGRAPH AGENCY, TEXT
OF EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GHORBAL AND
ARGENTINIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON IN WHICH GHORBAL FLATLY
DENIED HE HAD MADE ANTI-JUDAIST REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM
IN DIRECT QUOTATION IN EARLY 1975 ISSUE OF ARGENTINIAN
MAGAZINE MARCHAR. POLAKOFF, WHOSE AGENCY ACCORDING TO
EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HAD DISSEMINATED STORY EARLIER ABOUT THIS
ARGENTINIAN MAGAZINE PIECE, PROMISED TO GHORBAL TO FILE
STORY ON DENIAL. HE ALSO REQUESTED GHORBAL TO GIVE HIM
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STATEMENT ON WHAT HIS VIEWS RE JUDAISM ACTUALLY ARE, AND

GHORBAL UNDERTOOK TO DO SO. WE UNDERSTAND EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IS CONSIDERING IDEA OF LOCATING AND GIVING TO POLAKOFF SOME PAST PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT BY EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP IN WHICH THERE IS COMMENT DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN "ISRAELI EXPANSIONISM" AND JUDAISM AND EMPHASIZING EGYPTIAN RELIGIOUS

TOLERATION TOWARD JUDAISM AND ALL OTHER RELIGIONS.

2. FYI ARGENTINIAN ARTICLE (ISSUE NO. 7) QUOTED GHORBAL AS SAYING TO ITS CORRESPONDENT, PATRICIO KELLY, "THE ARAB PEOPLES ARE CONVINCED THAT THE EXTERMINATION OF JUDAISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR ANY PROCESS OF THEIR LIBERATION" AND "JUDAISM, AS A BRIDGEHEAD OF COLONIALIST EXPLOITATION, HAS TO DISAPPEAR." ARGENTINIAN AMBASSADOR'S LETTER OF MARCH 31 TO GHORBAL STATED THAT KELLY WHO HAD OBTAINED INTERVIEW WITH GHORBAL THROUGH ARGENTINIAN EMBASSY HAD DONE SO UNDER FALSE PRETENSES AND HAD IRRESPONSIBLY INJECTED MATERIAL INTO HIS ARTICLE WHICH GHORBAL HAD NEVER SAID, THAT KELLY'S ACTION HAD BEEN REPORTED TO GOA SECRETARY OF PRESS AND HIS QUALIFICATIONS AS REPORTER WERE NOW TOTALLY DISCREDITED, AND THAT ARTICLE IN QUESTION HAD APPEARED ONLY IN MARCHAR, A PUBLICATION PRACTICALLY UNKNOWN IN ARGENTINA OUTSIDE EXTREME NATIONALISTIC GROUPS, AND NOWHERE ELSE. GHORBAL'S LETTER OF APRIL 4 TO ARGENTINIAN AMBASSADOR SAID "IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE CONTEXT OF WHAT MR. KELLY PUBLISHED THAT HE RELIED ON A FERTILE IMAGINATION, INVENTING A WHOLE INTERVIEW WHICH IS TOTALLY CONTRARY TO MY VIEWS AND PHILOSOPHY AND THOSE OF MY GOVERNMENT."

3. FOR TEL AVIV. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT ISRAELI INFORMATION MINISTRY ISSUED OFFICIAL RELEASE MARCH 18 IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE QUOTING ALLEGED GHORBAL INTERVIEW IN MARCHAR EXTENSIVELY AND REFERRING TO ANTI-JUDAIST REMARKS CONTAINED IN MARCHAR ARTICLE AS "AMBASSADOR GHORBAL'S VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT," YOU SHOULD REPORT PROMPTLY ANY COVERAGE BY ISRAELI MEDIA OF GHORBAL'S DENIAL TO JEWISH TELEGRAPH AGENCY AND HIS FURTHER CLARIFICATION TO JTA (IF THIS IS MADE) OF EGYPT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD JUDAISM, OR ABSENCE OF COVERAGE, IF THIS PROVES TO BE THE CASE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. FOR LONDON. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN EMBASSY, GUARDIAN RAN STORY APRIL 8 ABOUT ALLEGED GHORBAL ANTI-JUDAIST REMARKS IN ARGENTINIAN MAGAZINE PIECE AND TREATED REMARKS AS IF FAITHFULLY REPORTED IN ARTICLE. REQUEST BRIEF REPORT OF GUARDIAN ITEM AND ANY FOLLOW-UP GIVING GHORBAL'S DENIAL. KISSINGER

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